

Wichita Daily Eagle

INSANITY'S FREAKS.

QUEER ILLUSIONS HELD BY APPARENTLY SANE PEOPLE.

An Odd Hallucination of a Respectable New York Banker—A Chicago Merchant's Startling Belief—Thought He Was Jesus Christ.

Not long ago an old man, looking like a rich, retired merchant of long years, walked into the office of one of the foremost publishing houses of New York and asked to see the head of the firm. That gentleman recognized the caller as a man who twenty years ago had been the junior member of a great Wall Street firm. He also remembered that the senior member had been one of Lincoln's most trusted advisers in financial matters.

The ex-banker said: "You will remember that my partner, who died about six months ago, was very prominent during the civil war. Every one in New York knows that Lincoln many times availed himself of his counsel. Now, I have in my possession papers and memoranda showing how very much Lincoln was indebted to him. This information is of a deeply interesting, and I might say, of a startling character. I thought, perhaps, you might make some arrangement to write a memoir. I feel certain that it would pay, besides being a fair tribute to my friend and throwing much light on history."

MEMOIR OF LINCOLN.

The ex-banker went on to tell that he had proof that his partner directed the original draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, besides doing many other things of vital importance. The publisher was delighted, and made arrangements for a writer to call at the ex-banker's house on a certain day and begin work. The publisher talked with the ex-banker for an hour or more and they separated, equally well pleased. At the appointed time the writer called and began to discuss the forthcoming book. After some time the ex-banker said:

"There is one thing I have not yet told you, and it is the most important of all. His voice sank to a mysterious whisper, 'My partner assassinated Mr. Lincoln.'"

"No," said the writer, drawing back and looking at the ex-banker in an astonished way.

"Yes," said the ex-banker, "he killed him." And then he proceeded to relate a wild and rambling story. The writer questioned him, and was soon satisfied that he was stark mad. On all other subjects he was perfectly sane. On this one of his partner's connection with the Lincoln administration he was insane.

A few years ago the police of Newark had an experience of this kind, about which they decline to talk even yet. One day a man of respectable appearance walked into police headquarters at Newark and said: "I am a dry goods merchant from Chicago. I was passing through here and stopped off at the station. I had a valise with \$57,000 in bills in it. I left the valise on a seat in the waiting room while I stepped out for a moment. When I came back it was gone. I am fortunately not entirely without money, as I happened to have a few hundred dollars in my pocket."

The police were at first inclined to doubt, but when the man told of two women who had followed him from Chicago and had acted suspiciously the belief was interested. He ordered diligent search for the robbers. Circumstances came up which verified the man's story, and the result was a great hue and cry. The man went to a hotel to await developments. He spent his own money freely and encouraged the police in every way. Several days passed. The story and the descriptions of the supposed robbers were telegraphed all over the country. They were seen here and there. Would be detectives in small towns made arrests. The newspapers were full of it and the mystery grew each day. Finally the man from Chicago took one of the detectives aside and said to him:

"Perhaps I should have explained one feature of this case sooner. It may have an important bearing. The fact is I am Jesus Christ. I think these robbers may have been the devil in disguise."

The detective stared at him and then called in other detectives to put the man under arrest. At first it was thought that the loss of the money had turned his head. But it was at last come out that, aside from the fact that he was a Chicago merchant, the story was false in every particular. The police were enraged and looked the boxer in an asylum as soon as possible. They still remember the great laugh that arose all over the country.

Inspector Byrnes tells a story of the same nature.

STRAMBOOTS IN THE STREET.

One day a man rushed into police headquarters much excited. He was deaf and dumb. He seemed almost prostrated with terror. After they had calmed him a little he explained that he had been robbed of \$1,000 by some men who had thrown him down and had nearly choked him to death. The inspector had him in conversation. One of the detective sergeants slipped up behind him and jabbed a pin into his back about two inches. The deaf and dumb man rose straight up and yelled:

"Great God, inspector, what was that?"

"That," said the inspector, "is my cure for dumbness. Git."

He was gone, and seems to have been permanently cured.

Capt. Reilly tells of a man who called on him a short time ago with an odd complaint. He was a quiet, gentlemanly person, well advanced in years. He said: "I am much troubled with large steamboats plowing up and down near my house at night. They make a great noise whistling and blowing, and I cannot sleep for them."

Capt. Reilly supposed the man lived near the water front, and said:

"Where's your house?"

"I live in Seventeenth street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues," said the man. "The steamboats go up and down Seventeenth street. It is very annoying."

"It must be," said Capt. Reilly. "I'll have it stopped."

The next day he went around and told the man that he had the steamboats stopped. A few days afterward the man called and thanked him. "They have stopped entirely," said he, "and I can never repay you."

"That's all right," said the police officer. "Seventeenth street is not a water thoroughfare and we never could allow it. You will not be disturbed any more."—New York Sun.

Ruskin is a very small man physically, and a person beholding him for the first time is sure to be disappointed in him. He has a sweet and fascinating smile and very light blue eyes.

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A Few Questions About Expression.

Sometimes one even hears the phrase: "Do you feel like bedstead?" How, pray, does a bedstead feel? Why should we use "ever so much" for "very much," or describe a man as "perfectly lovely?"

In English, the adverb "quite" means "entirely," "completely," but when we say that "one is quite well," we mean not that one is perfectly, but only tolerably well. We even see in American phrase, "quite a number of persons," as if one number was not as much of a number as another. We talk of a "prominent" citizen, intending to describe him not as prominent, but simply as eminent. Then again, we ask a friend to "come round" to-morrow, though he may have only to come straight across the street. We say: "You are hereby notified," instead of: "It is hereby notified to you," and we speak of a "transpiring" event as if a fact were endowed with an apparatus for breathing.

Why do we deem it elegant to say that a thing was "intimated," when we mean that it was said? And why do we talk it sounds like to speak of a thing being "definitely arranged," when we mean that it was definitely or finally settled? The answer to most of these questions is obviously that such mistakes are made by persons who do not remember or who have not reflected on the etymology of the words mentioned, which, of course, supplies the key to their true meaning and right use.—New York Leader.

Wall Street Cripples.

"Down in the district of town known as Wall street," a distinguished railroad official said recently, "a number of sturdy men move about on crutches. They have all their arms and legs; their faces are as a rule the faces of men whose lives are not too hard; they do not sport the Grand Army buttons. They do not rely very greatly on their crutches, that the crutches, to be sure, are always under the arms in the right position for use, but they are used very seldom. One of the crutchbearers will stand and talk to a friend, holding the crutches entirely off the sidewalks, and will gesture with them violently, then starting on he will let the foot of the crutch touch ground once in every three or four or half a dozen steps. These gentlemen are 'railroad cripples,' men who are suing railroad companies for alleged damages; they go around with crutches so that they can swear on the witness stand that they were on crutches for six months after the accident, on account of which they are suing."—New York Sun.

The Lace Handkerchief in Time of Cold.

The handkerchief of the European peasant still maintains its ancient uses of head covering, perspiration absorber, nose wipe and snuff cloth. That of the higher civilization has descended from the tasseled coverlet carried by the ladies of the Renaissance and succeeding epochs to a bit of lace four inches square, which it would be an effrontery against all the proprieties to apply to the nose. It is a fashion that of a fashionable lady in a drawing room with a bad cold and a lace handkerchief regulation size.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

The Word "Milliner."

The word "milliner" is said to have originated in the fifteenth century, when the city of Milan held the primacy in the world of dress and fashion, and gave to Europe the "modes," as Paris has done in more modern times. But although in this respect the center of gravity has shifted, an English traveler tells that you have only to enter one of the handsome Milanese shops to be convinced that the milliner in Milan is by no means moribund.

Words unintelligible to masculine ears—calabrese terms relating to the Arcana of female costume—flow forth, while the eye is invited to gaze on a bewildering vista of well grouped robes, costumes and belles tournures, until you are fain to confess, with the air of a cognoscente, that the specimens before you are "miracles of art," and as a barren confession unattended by a purchase would show such shocking ingratitude, you may probably cry "caviare to the general," and become a personal subscriber to the progress of the Milanese milliner. Perhaps in this case you may come to realize the force of the Italian proverb, "Dolce co' a vedova, a dolla incantata" (Things sweet to see, and sweet deceptions). To subscribe to the former is easy; the latter, experience alone can decide.

What Children Wear.

Smocking is always well worn by children, and nothing is more fashionable than plain, soft, oriental silk. This shows to the best advantage thus treated. The edges of the skirts are often thus bordered, and the opening to the high square is also smocking.

Skirts and waistcoats are frequently arranged in accordion folds. Over this is worn a short jacket, with an infinitesimal velvet collar, the jacket ending in the wide ash belt, the sleeves having a puff on the shoulder and at the elbow.

Old Age Among Nations of Antiquity.

Old men had great authority among people of antiquity. Home borrowed this trait from the Lacedaemonians. The title "senator" and "father," applied to statesmen, arose from the habit of depending on the wisdom of old men.—Harrison.

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His Raise.

A drama had been having a successful run, when one morning a "super" professional humorist to the manager with the following complaint:

"Sir," he said, "I have been playing my part now for a hundred consecutive nights with the utmost zeal and care. Can't you manage to give me a raise?"

"What part do you play?" asked the manager.

"I am in the fourth act. I have to stake \$20 in the gambling scene."

"Your claim is very fair," returned the manager. "From to-morrow you shall stake \$40."—London Tit-Bits.

Hatching a Plot.

Little Sister—Thay, Tommy, you go and dig a hole and let's see what kind of a savant Uncle Jack is stuffed with.—Tallman.

How Mark Twain Seems.

The opinions of our serving folks are sometimes worth knowing. At the Murray Hill hotel the other day one of the porters remarked: "There goes the solvent and dismallest giant as ever stopped at this 'ouse. I don't believe he ever knowed what it was to depress."

The subject of this depressing and melancholy criticism was Samuel L. Clemens, Esq. of Hartford, Conn., not unknown to admirers of serious and instructive literature as Mark Twain.—New York World.

Maisonier and His Paintings.

Maisonier, like Napoleon, was one of the little great men of the world. He was no taller than Thiers and he was even less strongly built, a large head and broad shoulders being supported by short, slender legs. His bushy beard gave him a fierceness which was wholly belied by his gentlemanly manner. His pictures owe much of their fame to their timeliness. For instance, there is "Le Recteur," which was in the Secrean collection. It is a picture of a man in a brown coat, and the amount of fine work put in by the painter into the tiny panel is amazing. If the value of pictures be judged by their prices per square inch some of Maisonier's must certainly be pronounced the most precious art "gems" in the world. The "Napoleon," for instance, which Mr. Ruskin bought in 1865, was sold in 1880 for \$2,000. The little picture is only 1 1/2 by 9/16, so that it was worth \$26 the square inch.

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Talleyrand's Estimate of Napoleon.

In the year 1807, when the emperor had conquered, under the other, Austria, Prussia and Russia, and held the whole destiny of Europe in his hands, what a grand and magnificent role might he not have played!

Napoleon is the first and only power that could have given to Europe a real balance, a goal which for centuries she had tried in vain to reach, and from which she is now more than ever distant.

For this he only needed, first, to urge Italy to unite, by giving it the house of Bavaria; secondly, to divide Germany between the house of Austria, which would enter to the mouth of the Danube, and the house of Brandenburg, which would have been strengthened, and, thirdly, to reawaken Poland by giving it to the house of Saxony.

With a true balance of power Napoleon might have given Europe an organization in accord with the moral law. A true balance would have made war almost impossible. An appropriate organization would have brought to each people the highest civilization of which it was capable.

Napoleon could have done these things, and he did not do them. If he had done them, he would have had everywhere statues to mark the gratitude of the people: every nation would have bewailed his death. Instead, he prepared the way for the state of affairs which we now see, and brought upon us the dangers which threaten us to this day. It is by those reasons that he ought to be, and will be, judged. Posterity will say of him: This man had great intellectual force, but he did not know what true glory meant. His moral power was slight, almost absent. He could not bear success with moderation or mixture with dignity; thus the moral force which he lacked was the undoing of all Europe, and himself as well.

Placed as I was for so many years in the midst of his plans and in the very center, so to speak, of his policies, and an eye witness to what was done or plotted against him, it did not require great astuteness to see that the countries recently subdued to his rule, all these new principalities created for and placed under the dominion of his own family, would be the first to strike the blow at his power.—Talleyrand's Memoirs in Century.

Advance of Public Sentiment.

As an incident of the woman's suffrage movement, it is impossible to pass over the election of Lady Sandhurst, Miss Jane Cobden and Miss Cons as members of the London county council. As householders are now pending for heavy penalties against the ladies to test their right to sit and vote, it would be unbecoming to do more than wish them success in their brave fight. Their presence at the council board, their useful work on its committees, has already justified their election that even if the law be interpreted hostilely against them there is little doubt that public opinion would compel early legislative action in favor of the right they claim.—Charles Brannigan in Boston Transcript.

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Similarity of Indians to the Jews.
When came the Indians? Their own story is somewhat similar to the story of the Jews. An old superstition obtained in Europe to hold a dog before a cloud could turn away the violence of the storm. This obtained with the Indians. Hume tells in his history of England of certain marks by which, in the early periods of the country, captives were designated for slaves and that they were not to be executed. Some of these identical marks as to captives who were to be made slaves obtained with the Indians.—Atlanta Constitution.

Kill Silt for Little Boys.
A pretty kit suit for early spring is of dark brown cashmere or of ladies' cloth, the wide plaided skirt sewed to a slim waist, which is covered in front with light tan colored cloth that stimulates a vest. The double breasted jacket is of the dark cashmere, with Diener's severe turned back broadly to show the vest, and trimmed with curls of light tan colored leather and large buttons of the leather. The kit must be long enough to entirely conceal the little trousers of brown cloth worn underneath. Long gaiters or leggings of tan leather and a cap of the same complete the suit. Light corn, drab and tan colors now rival the navy blue coats and suits so long worn by small boys.—Harper's Bazar.

The Best Time to Bathe.
The best time to bathe is, according to some authorities, just before going to bed, as any danger of catching cold is thus avoided, and the complexion is improved by keeping warm for several hours after leaving the bath. A couple of pounds of bran put into a thin bag and then in the bath tub is excellent for softening the skin. It should be left to soak in a small quantity of water several hours before being used.

Queer Face Ornamentation.
At any time from 16 to 22 years of age the male Equizun has "his lower lip pierced under each corner of the mouth for labrets. When the incision is first made sharp pointed pieces of ivory are put in.

After the wound heals the hole is gradually stretched to half an inch in diameter. Some of the poorer natives wear labrets made from cannon coal, ivory, common gravel and glass stoppers obtained from ships, which they shape for the purpose. All who can obtain them have agate ones.—Washington Letter.

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IN THE SPRING.
Nature should be assisted, when the system is changing from the full habit of the winter months, to the lighter diet of the warm season. Swift's Specific (S. S. S.) stimulates the sluggish blood and rids you of that feeling of heaviness and languor.

S. S. S. beautifies the skin and makes the complexion rosy and healthy.
S. S. S. gives elasticity to the step and buoyant spirits.
S. S. S. makes the feeble and delicate strong and robust.
S. S. S. is a tonic to the whole body and increases vitality.
S. S. S. is a simple vegetable medicine.

If there is poison in the blood, it generally shows itself in the spring, and this is the season to help nature to drive it out and be cured. Nothing does this as well as S. S. S. It is harmless to the most delicate, yet so powerful as to cleanse the system of all impurities.

Bloods on Blood and Skin Diseases Free. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

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